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**PETITION FEE**

Under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) &amp; (h)

**TRANSMITTAL**

Fees are subject to annual revision)

Send completed form to: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number

10/791,761

Filing Date

March 4, 2004

First Named Inventor

K. SUZUKI, et al

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

501.43575X00

Enclosed is a petition filed under 37 CFR §1.102(d) that requires a processing fee (37 CFR 1.17(f), (g), or (h)). Payment of \$ 130.00 is enclosed.

This form should be included with the above-mentioned petition and faxed or mailed to the Office using the appropriate Mail Stop (e.g., Mail Stop Petition), if applicable. For transmittal of processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17(i), see form PTO/SB/17i.

**Payment of Fees** (small entity amounts are NOT available for the petition (fees)☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1417:☐ petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) or (h)☒ any deficiency of fees and credit of any overpayments

Enclose a duplicative copy of this form for fee processing.

☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.☒ Payment by credit card (From PTO-2038 or equivalent enclosed). Do not provide credit card information on this form.**Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(f):****Fee \$400****Fee Code 1462**

For petitions filed under:

§ 1.53(e) - to accord a filing date.

§ 1.57(a) - to according a filing date.

§ 1.182 - for decision on a question not specifically provided for.

§ 1.183 - to suspend the rules.

§ 1.378(e) for reconsideration of decision on petition refusing to accept delayed payment of maintenance fee in an expired patent.

§ 1.741(b) - to accord a filing date to an application under §1.740 for extension of a patent term.

**Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(g):****Fee \$200****Fee code 1463**

For petitions filed under:

§1.12 - for access to an assignment record.

§1.14 - for access to an application.

§1.47 - for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor.

§1.59 - for expungement of information.

§1.103(a) - to suspend action in an application.

§1.136(b) - for review of a request for extension of time when the provisions of section 1.136(a) are not available.

§1.295 - for review of refusal to publish a statutory invention registration.

§1.296 - to withdraw a request for publication of a statutory invention registration filed on or after the date the notice of intent to publish issued.

§1.377 - for review of decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to expiration of a patent.

§1.550(c) - for patent owner requests for extension of time in ex parte reexamination proceedings.§1.956 - for patent owner requests for extension of time in inter partes reexamination proceedings.

§ 5.12 - for expedited handling of a foreign filing license.

§ 5.15 - for changing the scope of a license.

§ 5.25 - for retroactive license.

**Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(h):****Fee \$130****Fee Code 1464**

For petitions filed under:

§1.19(g) - to request documents in a form other than that provided in this part.

§1.84 - for accepting color drawings or photographs.

§1.91 - for entry of a model or exhibit.

§1.102(d) - to make an application special.

§1.138(c) - to expressly abandon an application to avoid publication.

§1.313 - to withdraw an application from issue.

§1.314 - to defer issuance of a patent.

Name (Print/Type)

Colin D. Barnitz

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

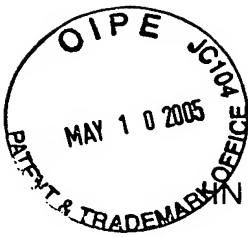
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Signature

Date

May 10, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Appl. No. :** 10/791,761 Confirmation No. 5271  
**Applicant :** SUZUKI, K. et al.  
**Filed :** March 4, 2004  
**Title :** CONNECTION SUPPORT METHOD  
FOR DISK ARRAY DEVICE  
**TC/AU :** 2833  
**Examiner :** TBA  
**Docket No. :** 501.43575X00  
**Customer No.:** 24956

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.102(d) (MPEP §708.02(VIII))**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Applicants petition the Commissioner to make the above-identified application special in accordance with 37 CFR §1.102(d). In support of this Petition, pursuant to MPEP § 708.02(VIII), Applicants state the following.

**(A) REQUIRED FEE**

This Petition is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.117(h). A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$130 accompanies this Petition in satisfaction of the fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

additional payment due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

**(B) ALL CLAIMS ARE DIRECTED TO A SINGLE INVENTION**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. All the pending claims of the application are directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all claims in the application are not directed to a single invention, Applicant will make election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

The claimed invention, as embodied in independent claims 1, 11, and 20 is generally directed to connecting cables in a disk array device whereby lights indicate a connection order of the cables. Under claim 1, the invention is a disk array device comprising: a disk array device housing; plural disk device housings which are stored in the disk array device housing and incorporate plural disk devices; and a controller housing which is stored in the disk array device housing and incorporates a controller for controlling reading and writing of data with respect to the disk devices, wherein the respective disk device housings have plural connectors for connecting cables for fiber channels and plural lighting units corresponding to the respective connectors, and the controller controls lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables.

Additionally, under independent claim 11, the invention is a connection support method for, in a disk array device storing a controller housing and plural disk device housings in a disk array device housing, connecting connectors, which extend

over the plural disk device housings, with cables for fiber channels, the controller housing incorporating a controller for controlling reading and writing with respect to the disk devices, the respective disk device housings having plural connectors for connecting the cables and plural lighting units corresponding to the respective connectors, the connection support method comprising, as steps to be executed by the controller: a step of recognizing the plural disk device housings stored in the disk array device housing; and a lighting control step of controlling lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables on the basis of a result of the recognition such that the disk device housings are connected in a connection state defined in advance.

Furthermore, under independent claim 20, the invention is a disk array device comprising: plural controller housings comprising: a communication control unit which is connected to a host apparatus and receives data from the host apparatus; a cache memory which is connected to the communication control unit and saves data exchanged between the communication control unit and the host apparatus; and plural controllers which are connected to the host apparatus and the cache memory and perform control such that the data, which is exchanged between the communication control unit and the host apparatus, is transferred to the communication control unit or received from the communication control unit; plural first disk drive housings comprising: plural disk drives which are connected to a first controller housing among the plural controller housings with a first fiber channel loop and store data to be transferred by the plural controllers in the first controller

housing; first connectors to which the first fiber channel loop is connected; and first display devices which are provided in association with the first connectors; and plural second disk drive housings comprising: plural disk drives which are connected to a second controller housing among the plural controller housings with a second fiber channel loop and store data to be transferred by the plural controllers in the second controller housing; second connectors to which the second fiber channel loop is connected; and second display devices which are provided in association with the second connectors, wherein the plural controller housings, the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural second disk drive housings are arranged in an identical disk array device housing, the plural first disk drive housings and the plural second disk drive housings are arranged alternately in the identical disk array device housing, the plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings.

**(C) PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH**

A careful and thorough pre-examination search has been conducted, directed to the invention as claimed. The pre-examination search was conducted in the following US Manual of Classification areas:

<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Subclass</u></b>
29	729, 745, 747
340	686.4, 687
361	727, 733, 826, 827
439	488, 489, 490, 491

Additionally, a keyword search was conducted on the USPTO's EAST database, including US patents, published US patent applications, and the European and Japanese patent abstract databases.

**(D) DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH AND OTHER ART OF RECORD IN THE APPLICATION**

The documents located by the pre-examination search are listed below. These documents were made of record in the present application by the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 4, 2005 (copy attached).

<b><u>Document No.</u></b>	<b><u>Inventor</u></b>
US 5448675	Leone, Frank S. et al.
US 6285293	German, Michael G. et al.
US 6493498	Colombo, Bruce A. et al.
US 6658191	German, Michael G. et al.
US 6747874	McKinnon, Wayne E. et al.
US 6784802	Stanescu, Michael D.
US 6809505	Peeke, Douglas E. et al.

Additionally, the following document was made of record in the present application by the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 4, 2004 (copy attached).

**Document No.**  
JP 09-330184

**Inventor**  
Matsunami, N. et al.

Because all of the above-listed documents are already of record in the present application, in accordance with MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(D), additional copies of these documents have not been submitted with this Petition.

#### **(E) DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE REFERENCES**

Those of the above-listed documents deemed to be most closely-related to the present matter encompassed by the claims are discussed below in section 2, pointing out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed present matter is patentable over the teachings of these documents.

##### **1. Discussion of the Invention**

The present invention teaches connecting cables to disk device housings in a disk array device, wherein a controller in the disk array device controls lighting states of lighting units corresponding to connectors on the disk device housings in accordance with a connection order of the cables. Accordingly, a feature of the a disk array device of claim 1 includes a controller and plural disk device housings having plural connectors for connecting cables, with plural lighting units

corresponding to the respective connectors the disk device housings, wherein the controller controls lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables.

Similarly, the invention of claim 11 includes a connection support method for connecting connector with cables in a disk array device. The disk array device includes a controller and disk device housing having a plural connectors and plural lighting units corresponding to the respective connectors. A feature of the method of claim 11 includes a lighting control step executed by the controller of controlling the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables. Thus, claims 1 and 11 are both include the feature that a controller in a disk array device controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables.

Further, a feature of claim 20 resides in that plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings. The prior art does



not teach or suggest such a disk array device or a connection support method for connecting connector with cables in a disk array device, as set forth in claims 1, 11 and 20.

## **2. Discussion of the References Believed to be Most-Closely Related**

The patent to Leone, US 5448675, shows a fiber distribution frame that provides a means for tracing patch connections. The frame has a plurality of shelves, and each shelf includes a plurality of modules where optical fibers from a trunk cable are connected with jumper cables for purposes of cross-connection between the cables. Push-button LEDs are located on each module to light the appropriate modules to be connected. A bus couples the modules in a shelf through a programmable logic chip and a host computer which has stored therein the permissible optical connections between modules. When it is desired to connect a module to its mate, the push button on the front of the module is pushed, and the shelf controller sends the information to the host, which returns messages to the appropriate shelves to light LEDs on the correct modules to connect. (See, e.g., column 2, lines 6-31, and column 2, line 55, through column 3, line 50.) Thus, Leone is directed to locating mating modules in a fiber distribution frame, but does not teach a connection order for cables as in the present invention, and Leone does not teach a disk array having a controller for controlling a connection order. Accordingly, Leone does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in

claims 1 and 11. Further, Leone does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The patent to German, US 6285293, shows a patch cord tracing system and method for tracing patch cords. When a patch cord is placed in any connector port, or removed from any connector port, the change is sensed by a sensor and is read to a CPU in the rack controller. The CPU is capable of keeping a log of all changes, and the log may be read out on a display or remotely accessed. The system can also be used to trace the end points of a patch cord, whereby a technician can press a button that corresponds in position to a known end of the patch cord, and the CPU will light the LED that corresponds in position to the opposite end of the targeted patch cord. (See, e.g., column 5, line 33, through column 6, line 17.) Thus, German

discloses a system whereby it is possible to locate pairs of matching connector ports by pressing a button or inserting a cable into one of the ports. However, German does not provide a system that controls lighting units in accordance with a connection order. Further, German does not teach a controller in a disk array apparatus for controlling a connection order of the cables in the disk array. Accordingly, German does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, German does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The patent to Colombo, US 6493498, shows a fiber administration system and method whereby at least one frame includes a plurality of bays, with each bay having

a plurality of fiber distribution shelves. A plurality of LEDs are disposed along top, bottom and side edges of each bay. A system controller runs software used to inform a technician of the preferred routing of any one optical fiber around and along the various bays by lighting any of the plurality of lights in any sequence. (See, e.g., column 3, lines 14-62.) Thus, Colombo teaches a routing path for an individual fiber rather than a connection order. Additionally, Colombo does not teach a disk array device, or a connection order of cables in a disk array. Accordingly, Colombo does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, Colombo does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The second patent to German, US 6658191, shows a flexible membrane that may be adhered to a module faceplate. The membrane includes plastic pressure switches and associated LEDs, and provides a functionality similar to the system described above in the first patent to German (US 6285293), such as adding, deleting and queuing patch cord ends. (See, e.g., column 5, lines 1-40.) Thus, this patent to German also merely discloses a system whereby it is possible to locate pairs of matching connector ports by pressing a button or inserting a cable into one of the ports. However, German does not teach a system that controls lighting units in accordance with a connection order. Further, German does not teach a controller in a disk array apparatus for controlling a connection order of the cables in the disk array. Accordingly, German does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, German does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should

be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The patent to McKinnon, US 6747874, shows a rack for storing information handling system components, wherein visual information is conveyed to indicate the status of the components stored in the rack. A rear status indicator assembly incorporates a cable management assembly, a power jack, a cabling section, and an indicator port. Indicator port 20 includes a bicolor indicator 70 operable to indicate either a first status color or a second status color, dependent upon whether the component is functioning properly or not. Additionally, a status indicator 48 is connected with the component via port 20, and includes an indicator 84. Indicator assembly 48 receives signals from port 20 for displaying the status of the component. (See, e.g., column 3, line 53, through column 5, line 22.) Thus, while McKinnon teaches indicators on a rack, McKinnon does not teach the present invention, including controlling lighting units in accordance with a connection order. Accordingly, McKinnon does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, McKinnon does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first

display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The patent to Stanescu, US 6784802, shows a system and method for real-time monitoring of a cable patch panel. The system includes RFID transponders on cable ends and RFID sensors at connection points. The RFID sensors are connected to a central monitoring system, and upon initialization of the system, a computer broadcasts signals to each point of a mating matrix. The tags on the cables are recognized by the port they are installed on, and checked to determine if they match previously-input addresses in the mating matrix. A technician making changes can be aided by visual aids, such as an LED showing red or blinking. The visual aids can be made to light sequentially, in the same order that the changes have been programmed by an administrator, thus showing what connections to make, break, or change. LED indicators will change from red to green upon completion of the task sequence and then the next change will be highlighted. (See, e.g., column 4, line 48, through column 5, line 35.) Thus, while Stanescu teaches

sequential lighting of indicators, Stanescu is directed to a telecommunications system, and does not address the problem solved by the present invention of correctly connecting cables to disk housing containing disks in a disk array for proper functionality. Accordingly, Stanescu does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, Stanescu does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The patent to Peeke, US 6809505, shows a storage system that includes the capability of detecting an improper cable connection. A detector 400 includes a comparator 404 in communication with a plurality of LEDs 412. Each LED is associated with a particular backend. An improperly installed cable can be located



by looking at the enclosure with one or more flashing LEDs. (See, e.g., column 3, lines 8-47, column 4, line 55, through column 5, line 2, and column 7, line 9, through column 8, line 8.) Thus, Peeke discloses a system for locating improperly installed cables after installation, and Peeke does not teach controlling the lighting states of lighting units in accordance with a connection order of cables. Accordingly, Peeke does not teach a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, Peeke does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

The Japanese patent to Matsunami, JP 09-330184, teaches a disk housing management system in which an LED corresponding to a disk drive is turned on by

automatically relating a disk housing to a disk drive. A disk suppression means 303 specifies mounted disk drives and registers their characteristic IDs in the disk housing, thereby controlling the illumination of LEDs by the disk drives by using the characteristic IDs. Thus, Matsunami does not teach connecting cables in a disk array device, and does not teach the present invention, including a controller in a disk array device that controls the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claims 1 and 11. Further, Matsunami does not teach a disk array device with plural housings having plural controllers, wherein plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thus, from the foregoing, it is apparent that none of the above-discussed documents teach a controller and plural disk device housings having plural

connectors for connecting cables, with plural lighting units corresponding to the respective connectors the disk device housings, wherein the controller controls lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claim 1. Similarly, the above-discussed document do not teach a connection support method for connecting connector with cables in a disk array device, wherein the disk array device includes a controller and disk device housing having a plural connectors and plural lighting units corresponding to the respective connectors, and the method includes a lighting control step executed by the controller of controlling the lighting states of the lighting units in accordance with a connection order of the cables, as set forth in claim 11. Further, the above-discussed documents do not teach that plural controllers in the first controller housing perform control, in the case in which the first fiber channel loop is connected to the plural first disk drive housings, so as to light the first display devices of the plural first disk drive housings in an order in which the first fiber channel loop should be connected to the first connectors of the plural first disk drive housings, and the plural controllers in the second controller housing perform control, in the case in which the second fiber channel loop is connected to the plural second disk drive housings, so as to light the second display devices of the plural second disk drive housings in an order in which the second fiber channel loop should be connected to the second connectors of the plural second disk drive housings, as set forth in claim 20. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 11 and 20 are patentable over the above-listed documents.

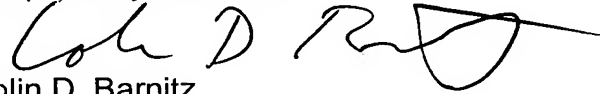
The Applicants submit that the foregoing discussion demonstrates the patentability of the independent claims over the closest-known prior art, taken either singly, or in combination. The remaining claims depend from the independent claims, claim additional features of the invention, and are patentable at least because they depend from allowable base claims. Accordingly, the requirements of 37 CFR §1.102(d) having been satisfied, the Applicants request that this Petition to Make Special be granted and that the application be examined according to prescribed procedures set forth in MPEP §708.02 (VIII).

The Applicants prepared this Petition in order to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and MPEP §708.02 (VIII). The pre-examination search required by these sections was “directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested.” MPEP §708.02 (VIII). The search performed in support of this Petition is believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of MPEP §708.02 (VIII); however, Applicants make no representation that the search covered every conceivable search area that might contain relevant prior art. It is always possible that prior art of greater relevance to the claims may exist. The Applicants urge the Examiner to conduct his or her own complete search of the prior art, and to thoroughly examine this application in view of the prior art cited above and any other prior art that may be located by the Examiner’s independent search.

Further, while the Applicants have identified and discussed certain portions of each cited reference in order to satisfy the requirement for a “detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37

C.F.R. §1.111(b) and (c), how the claimed present matter is patentable over the references" (MPEP §708.02(VIII)), the Examiner should not limit review of these documents to the identified portions, but rather is urged to review and consider the entirety of each reference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin D. Barnitz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Attorney for Applicants

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